

BOOK REVIEW

JUDITH LARNER LOWERY. 2007. **The Landscaping Ideas of Jays.** (ISBN 978-0-520-24164-0, pbk.). University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94704-1012, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.ucpress.edu or California-Princeton Fulfillment Services, 1445 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, New Jersey 08618, U.S.A., orders@cpfsinc.com, 1-800-777-4726). \$25.95, 280 pp., 20 color plates, 6" x 9".

The Landscaping Ideas of Jays explores the natural history of a California backyard restoration project. Containing thirty two chapters in five sections (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer, and the fifth season), this thoroughly researched book is full of anecdotal and historical views of California's native flora. The author mourns the disappearance of massive wildflower blooms of early California history, yet offers hope that some of the landscape can be restored and protected via restoration gardening. Her garden restoration partners include the western scrub Jay that she both views as an important architect of the California landscape and gives credit for 80% of the oak trees on her property.

Intertwined with practical gardening ideas and the author's infectious passion for California is an engaging look at the influential people of the states' native plant movement from the early 1900s, including Lester Rowntree, Edith Van Allen Murphey, and Gerda Isenberg.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in natural history as well as those contemplating a restoration project in any state as Mrs. Lowery's knowledge of native plants will inspire you.—Gary L. Hinds, Nuclear Chemistry Instructor, Texas Master Naturalist (Rio Brazos), and BRIT volunteer.